



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2004

Robert C. Wright
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, NBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza, 52nd Floor
New York, NY 10112

Dear Mr. Wright:

Only 28 days remain until an estimated 105 million Americans go to the polls to cast their votes in what could be the most consequential election in a generation. With many contests expected to be very close this November, including the presidential race, it is imperative that voters have faith that the voting process will be fair and that the outcome, however close, will be honest. Americans, whatever their political allegiances, will not and should not tolerate a repeat of the 2000 election controversy.

Despite the considerable progress that has been made in recent years to defend the franchise of every American, we can expect to see subtle and not-so-subtle efforts by sinister political operatives to discourage turnout and intimidate voters in key precincts around the nation. The record shows that voters – particularly African American voters and other minorities – have historically faced calculated and determined efforts at intimidation and suppression. The fact that such efforts are not only profoundly undemocratic but also illegal in every state has not deterred some people,

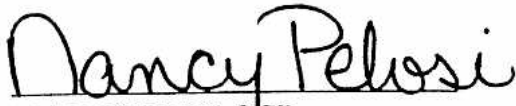
undemocratic but also illegal in every state has not deterred some people, acting alone or on behalf of others, from engaging in them to distort election outcomes.

This nation's television networks are in the unique position to do something positive to educate voters not only about the candidates and their policy positions, but also about their voting rights. To that end, we strongly urge NBC to carry out its public service obligations by producing and broadcasting a public service campaign describing what actions voters can take if they suspect their voting rights are being violated between now and Election Day. These public service announcements ideally could be produced with the assistance of nonpartisan civil rights and voter advocacy groups that have considerable experience registering voters and educating them about their rights.

Americans deserve to know that the election process this year will not condone, encourage, or tolerate any activity by any political party or group of people, anywhere in the United States, that is designed to intimidate voters or suppress turnout. Public service announcements stressing this theme will send a strong and unequivocal message to all Americans that they must stand together on the need to ensure the integrity of the election process and the right of every eligible American to vote.

Thank you for your attention and with kindest regards, we are

Sincerely yours,



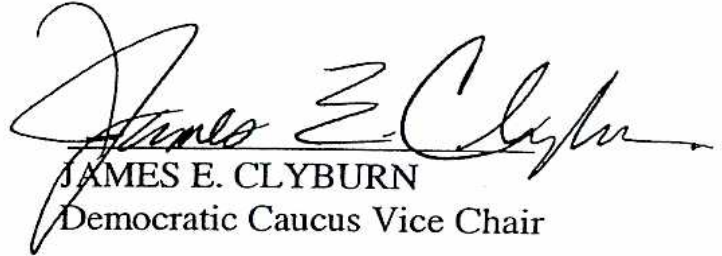
NANCY PELOSI
House Democratic Leader



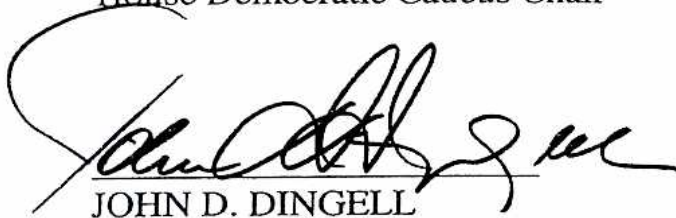
STENY H. HOYER
House Democratic Whip



ROBERT MENENDEZ
House Democratic Caucus Chair



JAMES E. CLYBURN
Democratic Caucus Vice Chair



JOHN D. DINGELL
Ranking Democrat,
House Energy and Commerce
Committee



JOHN B. LARSON
Ranking Democrat,
House Administration
Committee